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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The apparatus and methods employ momentum separation to implement a particle beam (PB) sampling scheme for the introduction of particulate matter into low pressure (e.g., glow discharge) plasma sources for subsequent atomic emission and mass spectrometry chemical analysis in real time, whether the particles are provided in a continuous stream during the analysis or are collected *in situ* and analyzed periodically upon obtaining a suitable number of particles to be analyzed. The particulate matter in the particle beam (PB) is subjected to low-power laser scattering to effect particle size analysis. Gases removed by momentum separation are also analyzed.